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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,207	01/16/2007	Vladimir Krapka	1033590-000002	9232
21839	7590	01/15/2008	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC			BRITTAIN, JAMES R	
POST OFFICE BOX 1404			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			3677	
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
01/15/2008	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/565,207	KRAPKA, VLADIMIR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James R. Brittain	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01162007; 01202006.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petzl (US 5432984) in view of Anderson (US 5438734).

Petzel (figures 1, 2) teaches buckle structure for safety straps comprising an upper frame 14 and a lower frame 12 of different sizes with each having a first long side for being connected to a fixed strap loop 29 and a second long side for being connected to a second strap 16. The difference is that a lateral side of the upper frame lacks a gap for passage of a strap. However, Anderson (figures 1, 2) teaches providing gaps 26 in the lateral sides of the buckle for ease of release so that unthreading a strap is not needed (col. 1, line 58 - col. 2, line 12), a distinct advantage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the buckle of Petzel so that a lateral side of the upper frame has a gap in view of Anderson teaching it to be desirable to do so. As to claim 5, Anderson teaches that it is desirable to provide the upper frame with a middle transversal part 16 so as to aid in maintaining the first strap.

Claims 2, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petzl (US 5432984) in view of Anderson (US 5438734) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Reiter (US 1997653).

Further modification of the buckle of Petzl so that the lower frame is bent at a sharp angle away from the plane of the upper frame would have been obvious in view of Reiter (figure 2) providing a portion 23 of the lower frame at a sharp angle away from the plane of the upper frame so as to aid in gripping the second strap. In regard to claim 6, it would have been obvious to use a sleeve to secure the frames of the device of Petzl in view of Reiter suggesting the use of integral sleeve 16 to secure the frames together.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petzl (US 5432984) in view of Anderson (US 5438734) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Banks (US 4670945).

Further modification of the buckle of Petzl such that the width of the upper frame is wider than the width of the lower frame would have been obvious in view of Banks (figures 1-5) teaching such a relationship to be desirable for ease of lifting the upper frame.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Gay can be reached on (571) 272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James R. Brittain/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB